(b) to (d) No Sir. Pruning or felling of trees in National Parks/Sanctuary, are considered on case to case basis on merit.

Dolphin Population

376. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the highly endangered Dolphin population is facing a serious threat from mechanized boats used by tourists and others;

(b) if so, the latest Dolphin population figures and the comparative figures pertaining to the earlier censuses; and

(c) the steps aken and proposed to be taken to protect and promote this endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) While entanglement in the fishing nets, reduction of habitat and pollution are the major threats to dolphin populations, there are reports of serious adverse impact of mechanized boats used by tourists on dolphins.

(b) Although no systemic population survey for dolphins has been done so far but some population estimates are available. During late 1980s the population of Ganges river dolphin was estimated to be around 3000 to 4000, and, as per a recent survey conducted by World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) the population is between 1800 and 2000. Population estimate of Irrawaddy dolphin found in coastal waters of India is available only for Chilika lake in Orissa. While there were about 79 dolphins in Chilka lake in 1998, the present population estimate is around 60 dolphins.

(c)The steps taken to protect and promote dolphins include:

1. All the species of dolphins have been put in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby providing the highest degree of protection under the law.

2. Protected Area network has been Established in the country for conservation of dolphins.

3. Education and awareness programmes have been conducted to promote conservation of dolphins at more than 1000 locations along the river banks. Chilka Development Authority has also conducted awareness programmes involving Non Government Organisations (NGOs) for fishermen in Chilka area.

Organisations engaged in environment improvement

†377.SHRIMATI KUM KUM RALWill the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of organisations engaged in improvement of environment getting foreign aid;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint regarding activities of these organisations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (d)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment in FPIs

†378. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the survey conducted by National Council for Applied Economic Research regarding the investment required for Food Processsing Industry in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount of capital required as per tfre report;

(c) whether Government have expressed its concurrence with the said amount; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.